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KATMANDU

Carole Curtis & Terrie Smith's

# Katmandu

TM

TERRIE SMYTH '93

# ANTARCTIC Blast

JANUARY

# WORDS FROM THE MOUNT

Whoah! Major news for you mangaphiles! In a corporate coup d'état, *Ben Dunn's* **Ninja High School** will be returning to the Antarctic Press! After six years with Malibu Comics, Ben opted to bring the book back to its original publisher – us – since Malibu seems to be concentrating it's publishing efforts on, errr.. other books. Issue number 39 will be the last Eternity issue and all subsequent issues they solicited will be cancelled. AP will solicit an all-new issue for a May release starting with issue 40! It will feature a retrospective of the past 39 issues told by Jeremy, Ichi and Asrial and will be the perfect place for new readers to join the series! NHS fans have further reason to rejoice this month because of the release of the long-awaited card set and the CD-ROM Game! Keep your eyes peeled for those because they're gonna fly off the shelves.

• The powers that be recently decided a Gold Digger contest was in order –and what better prize to give away than a hefty troy ounce of our favorite precious metal! All you have to do is send in one of the coupons from the following books: Gold Digger #9, The Gold Digger Special (reprinting all those hard-to-find early adventures) or The Gold Digger/NHS crossover "A Science Affair". Send 'em *all* in and we'll send you a Gold Edition Gold Digger/NHS collector's issue! For more details and rules regarding the contest, look for our ads in upcoming books.

Well, that's all for this month! I'll see you all in 30!

**Pat Duke**

## ☑ CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases

**Release dates subject to change.**

- ☐ **Mangazine #31** • 32 pages • $2.95.
- ☐ **Katmandu #2** • 32 pages • by Curtis, Smith and Barnard • $2.95.
- ☐ **Furrlough #13** • 32 pages • $2.75 .
- ☐ **Goku #4**• 32 pages • by Ippongi Bang • $2.95.
- ☐ **Gold Digger #7** • 32 pages • by Fred Perry • $2.75.
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- ☐ **Silbuster #1** • 32 pages • by Kazumitsu Sahara • $2.95.
- ☐ **Ninja High School #0** • 32 pages • by Ben Dunn • 2.95.
- ☐ **NHS Limited Edition Card Set** • 54 card set • $9.95.
- ☐ **Small Bodied NHS Collection** • 64 pages • by Robert DeJesus • $6.95.
- ☐ **Command Review Volume 4** • 64 pages • by Steve Gallacci.
- ☐ **NHS CD-ROM GAME** • $29.95

# Voting With Your Dollars -- A Word from the Publisher

As we enter 1994 it is customary to look back at the last year to see where we have come from and where we are going. I guess the Antarctic Press is no different in this time of reflection. The year of 1993 has seen tremendous growth in our company. We added a computer art division, moved into a 3000-square-foot office and hired new staff employees (production, editorial, and translations). We've also quadrupled our comic output in just a year. But while there is occasion to celebrate, it may be too premature. For the most part, sales have remained low (but consistent and improving) but we are still ignored, in general, by the fan press (except for the Comics Buyer's Guide and Comic Shop News).

While sitting in my office, it occurred to me that AP is now entering into its ninth year of publishing comics and a lot has happened since we first published MANGAZINE back in 1985. A lot of comic companies have come and gone in that time, victims of whatever forces conspired to do them in. I'd like to think that AP would be immune to such forces, but I would only be fooling myself.

Will AP survive another nine years? That depends on you, our readers. By buying an AP book you are voting with your dollars. You are sending a message to your retailer that you will support his or her store as long as they carry the books you want. I am not going to get into yet another small publisher's diatribe about how the market is treating us unfairly, or how you should buy our books because they're like Marvel's, or Image's, or Valiant's, etc., or how they'll go up in value, or how different we are, or how everybody else sucks except us. No, I feel that what we do speaks for itself. If you like our books you will "vote" with your dollars. If you do not, then you won't.

So let's look back and see what AP has done for the past nine years; here's a list of the top 50 books we've published:

| # | Title | Sales | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | NHS Talks About STD | 28300 | Sep 92 |
| 2 | NHS Talks About Drugs | 11075 | Dec 93 |
| 3 | NHS Talks About Comic | 10900 | Aug 93 |
| 4 | NHS Swimsuit 1992 | 10409 | Dec 92 |
| 5 | Ninja High School #0 | 9090 | Jan 94 |
| 6 | NHS Swimsuit 1993 | 8778 | Dec 93 |
| 7 | NHS 3-D #1 | 7720 | Jul 92 |
| 8 | Girls of NHS 1993 | 7415 | Apr 93 |
| 9 | NHS Yearbook 1989 | 7075 | Sep 89 |
| 10 | Trouble w/ Tigers #1 | 6615 | Jan 92 |
| 11 | NHS Yearbook 1992 | 6426 | Oct 92 |
| 12 | NHS Yearbook 1991 | 6388 | Oct 91 |
| 13 | Girls of NHS 1992 | 6371 | May 92 |
| 14 | Girls of NHS 1991 | 6158 | Jun 91 |
| 15 | NHS Yearbook 1993 | 6094 | Oct 93 |
| 16 | NHS Perfect Mem #1 | 6036 | Jul 90 |
| 17 | NHS Perfect Mem #2 | 5881 | Nov 93 |
| 18 | Velvet Touch #1 | 5655 | Oct 93 |
| 19 | Albedo #1 | 5599 | Jun 91 |
| 20 | NHS Yearbook 1990 | 5372 | Nov 90 |
| 21 | Goku #1 | 5317 | Oct 93 |
| 22 | Hitomi #1 | 5125 | Apr 92 |
| 23 | A-OK #1 | 5060 | Sep 92 |
| 24 | H-Bomb #1 | 5055 | May 93 |
| 25 | Zetraman #1 | 4876 | Sep 91 |
| 26 | Silbuster #1 | 4864 | Jan 94 |
| 27 | SB NHS #2 reg | 4730 | Feb 93 |
| 28 | Albedo #2 | 4288 | Sep 91 |
| 29 | Trouble w/ Tigers #2 | 4240 | Feb 92 |
| 30 | SB NHS #1 reg | 4118 | Aug 92 |
| 31 | Mangazine #25 | 4097 | Jul 93 |
| 32 | Settei #1 | 4080 | Mar 93 |
| 33 | Mangazine #1 | 4070 | Jan 89 |
| 34 | SB NHS #2 dlx | 4008 | Feb 93 |
| 35 | Mighty Bombshells #1 | 3917 | Sep 93 |
| 36 | Dojinshi #1 | 3885 | Oct 92 |
| 37 | Albedo #3 | 3745 | Dec 91 |
| 38 | Hitomi #2 | 3732 | Jun 92 |
| 39 | Starlight Agency #1 | 3708 | Jun 91 |
| 40 | Albedo Color Special | 3704 | Jul 93 |
| 41 | Albedo #5 | 3533 | Jun 92 |
| 42 | Albedo #4 | 3505 | Mar 92 |
| 43 | Mangazine #2 | 3478 | 1989 |
| 44 | Albedo #6 | 3339 | Sep 92 |
| 45 | Albedo #7 | 3288 | Dec 92 |
| 46 | A-OK #2 | 3285 | Nov 92 |
| 47 | Genus #1 | 3283 | Jun 93 |
| 50 | A-Bomb #1 | 3248 | Dec 93 |

Now I am sure most of you may not care about such information, preferring that we simply put out our books, but since we live in a society obsessed with statistics, I thought I'd give you real numbers to see how we are really doing. Have fun and have a Happy New Year.

**Ben Dunn**


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# KATMANDU

## Velites AND HOPLITES

### PART 2

FORCED BY CIRCUMSTANCES, TWO ENEMIES MUST TRAVEL TOGETHER TO A NEUTRAL SANCTUARY.

LEAHTRAH MIDDLESMITH, A VELITE HEALER, IS TREATING THE WOUNDS OF THORIN LEONIUS, A HOPLITE SOLDIER WHO HAD ORIGINALLY CHAINED HIMSELF TO HER. THE CHAIN IS NOW OFF, AND THEY HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE FOR MUTUAL AID AND PROTECTION.

EACH OASIS THEY STOP AT IS A DRAWING POINT FOR SCAVENGERS AND THIEVES. THIS ONE IS NO DIFFERENT...

STORY --
CAROLE CURTIS

PENCILS --
TERRIE SMITH

INKS --
MARK BARNARD

TO MY BROTHER DAVID & MY SISTERS ELIZABETH, KATHLEEN, AND LISA -- MAY YOU AND YOUR LOVES ALWAYS KNOW LOVE!

THORIN! A SCAVENGER!

SKREE!

HISS!

SQUEEEE!

ROARR!

NOW, THORIN! KILL HIM WHILE HE'S BLINDED!

WHERE'S MY KNIFE?

LEAH!

RUN, LEAH! CAN'T FIGHT HIM LONG! I'LL HOLD HIM UNTIL YOU ESCAPE!

THORIN! LOCK THE END TO YOUR WRIST AND RUN!

CLICK

ACK!

G-GACK!!

AK-AK-AHHH...

ARE YOU SURE HE'S DEAD?

I'VE HEARD THAT THROAT RATTLE ENOUGH TIMES TO KNOW. LET ME GET YOUR ROBE --

WAIT! LET ME DRESS, SO I CAN HELP YOU DRAG THE BODY OFF!

THAT FIGHT...MUST HAVE TAKEN A LOT OUT OF ME.

OF COURSE, THORIN! YOU'RE SLASHED IN TWO PLACES!

OHH -- YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE BLOOD, AND NOW YOU HAVE AGAIN...

DOESN'T HURT.

YOU'RE LUCKY. IT BLED A LOT, BUT IT'S NOT DEEP. IT WILL LEAVE A SCAR!

IT CAN JOIN THE OTHERS I BEAR.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE ALERT. HE SHOULDN'T HAVE SURPRISED US.

LEAH, YOU'RE NOT A SOLDIER. THE FAULT IS MINE.

YOU WOULD MAKE A GOOD SOLDIER. YOUR QUICK THINKING WITH THE CHAIN SAVED OUR LIVES.

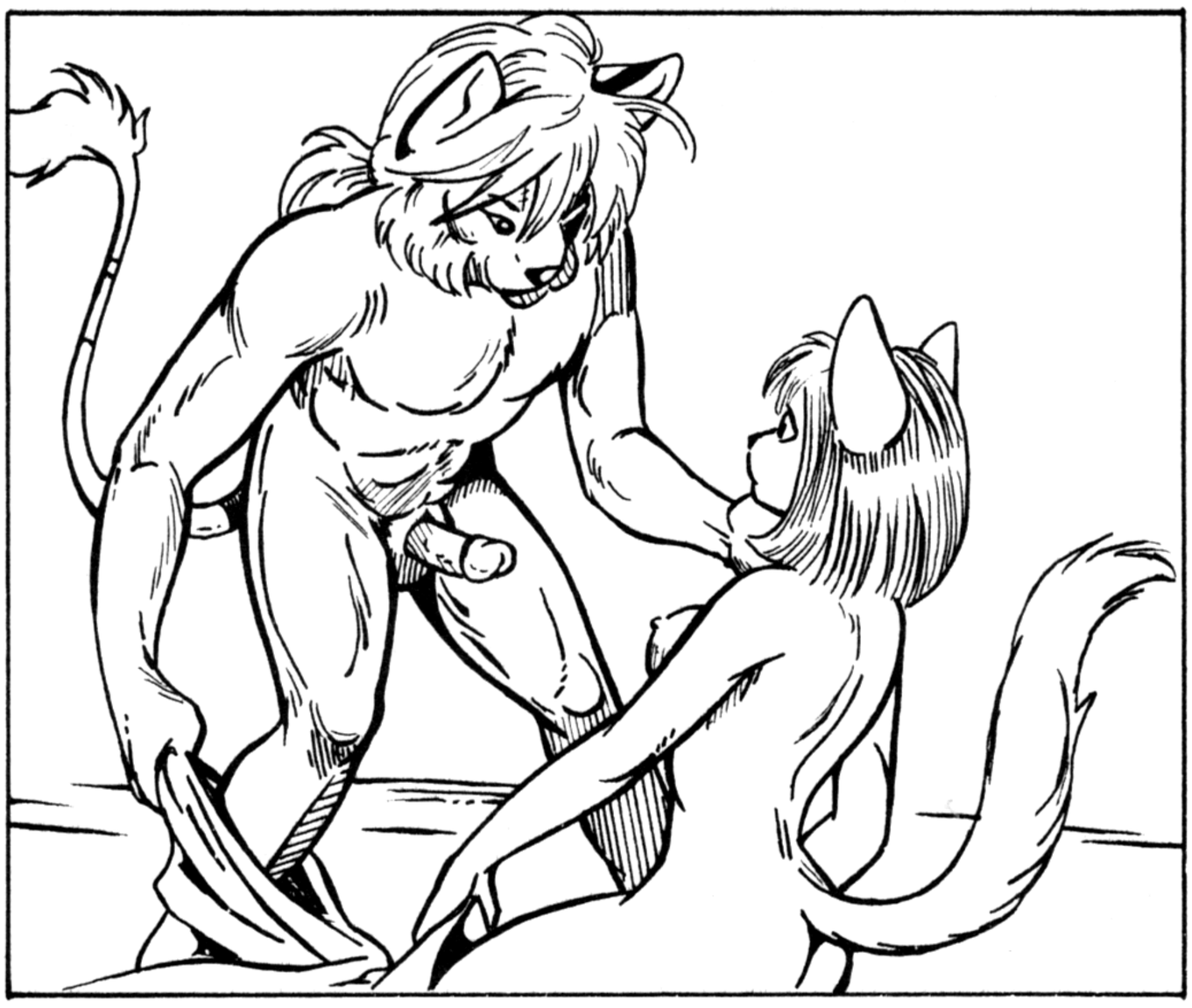
HMF. THANKS. YOU WERE BRAVE ALSO.

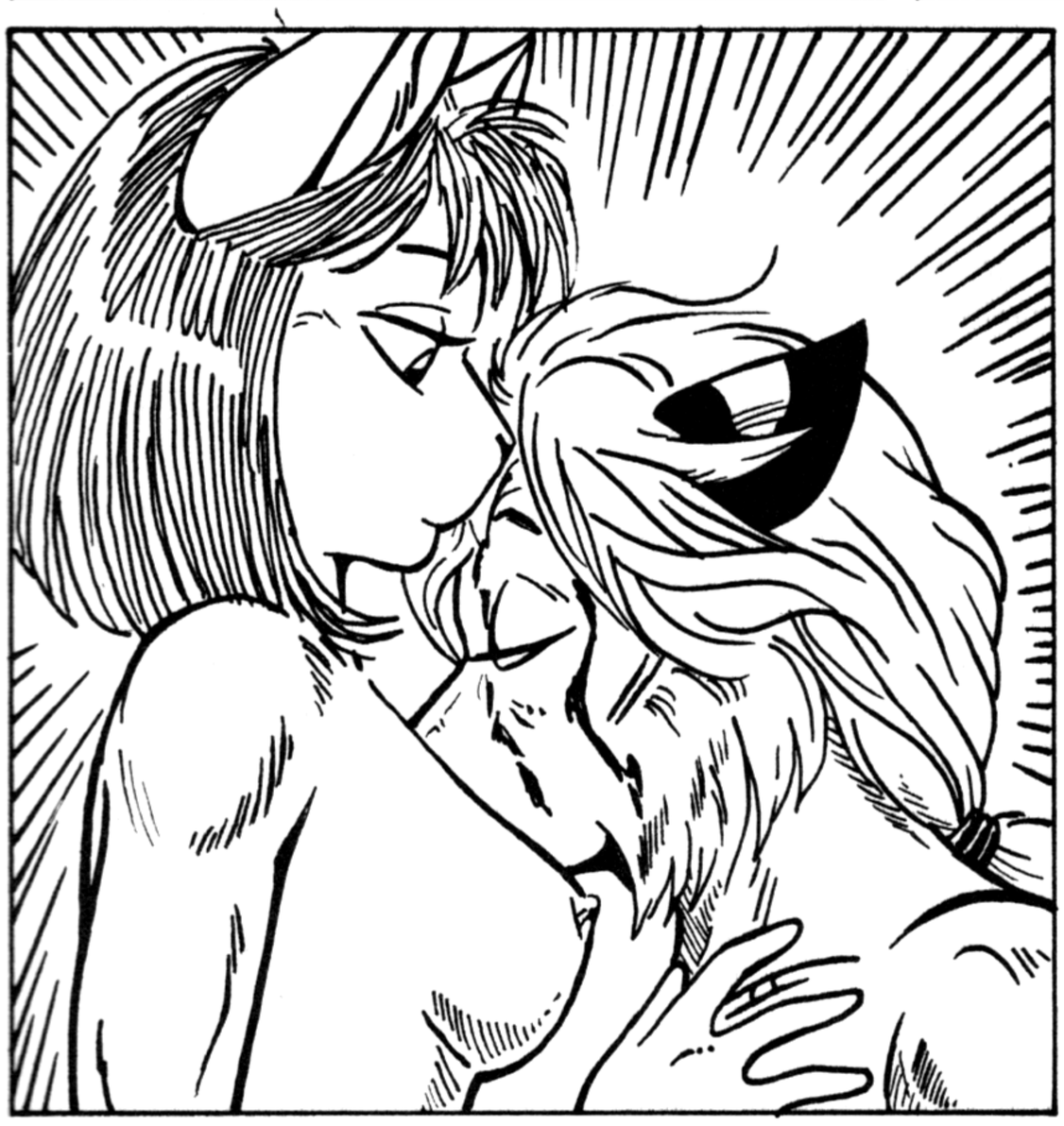
LEAH -- YOUR HAND IS CUT!

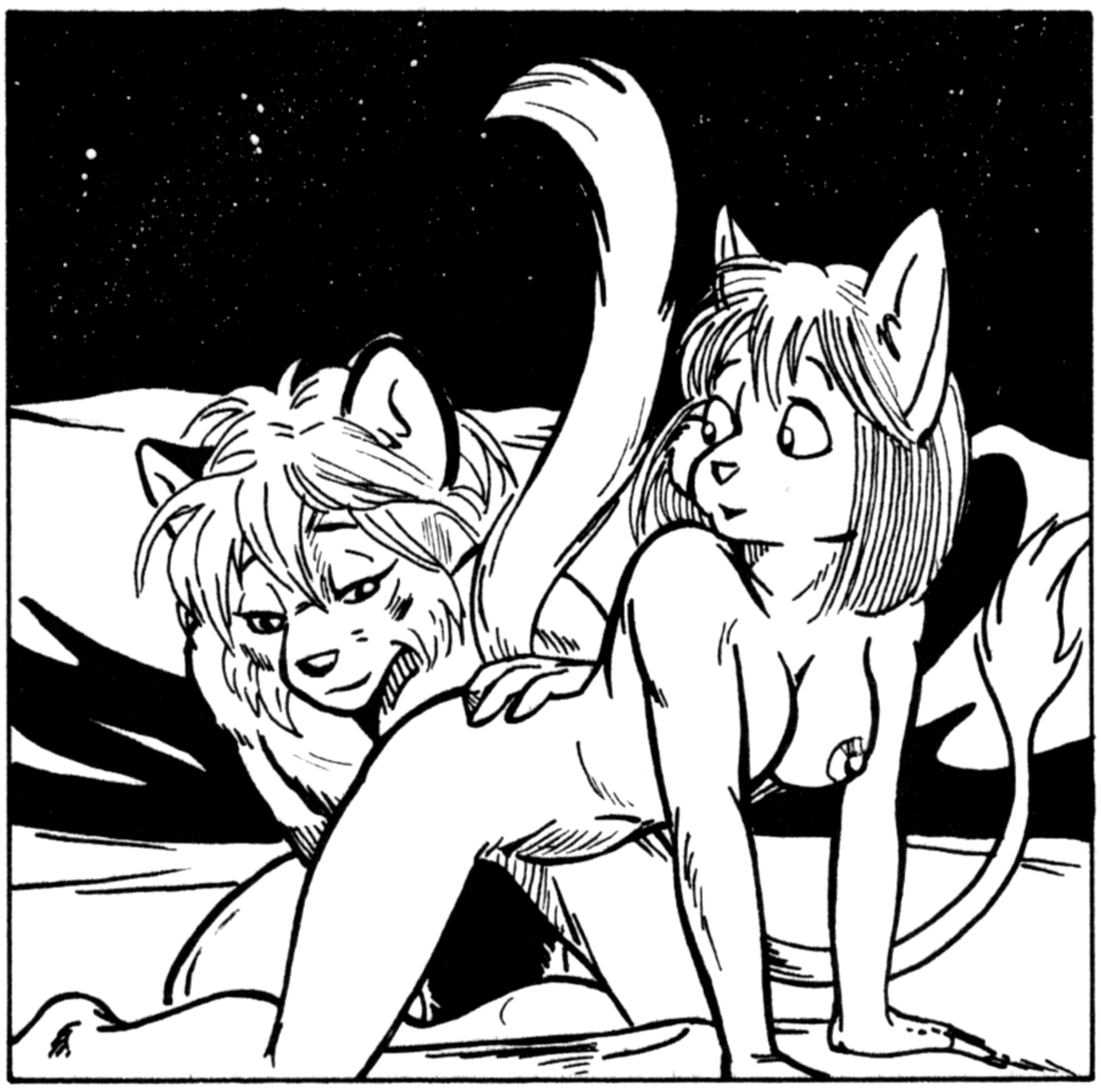
HMM?

I DIDN'T NOTICE.

IT-IT WILL HEAL. YOUR... WOUNDS ARE MORE SERIOUS.







I SPOKE TOO SOON.

ABOUT WHAT?

YOU GAVE ME A CHOICE. I MADE IT.

THORIN IS MIGHTY INDEED!

LEAH...

SHHH. JUST HOLD ME...

THORIN? IT'S DAWN. WE MUST LEAVE.

UMM?

LEAH -- I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT -- LAST NIGHT WAS -- VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

WE NEED TO LOOK ABOUT FOR THE SCAVENGER'S TRAIL -- SEE IF HE HAD SUPPLIES HIDDEN IN THE DUNES WHILE HE STALKED US.

LEAH...

THORIN? GET DRESSED!

DAMN. WOMAN! WHAT ABOUT LAST NIGHT?

WHAT ABOUT LAST NIGHT? WE DEFENDED OURSELVES WELL.

WE KILLED A SCAVENGER WHO ATTACKED US.

WE MATED, LEAH! THAT IS VERY SERIOUS TO MY PEOPLE!

IT WAS MY TIME. WITH MY PEOPLE, WE MATE WHEN WE ARE READY. YOU WERE THERE. NOW GET DRESSED.

I CANNOT BELIEVE SHE IS ACTING THIS WAY!

THORIN! COME UP HERE!

HE HAD A LARGE PACK, FULL OF DRIED AND FRESH FOODS!

HM -- I AM STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY IT.

THORIN, THERE ARE ALSO SWEETMEATS.

IT IS CUSTOMARY WITH MY PEOPLE - WHEN TWO MATE - FOR THE FEMALE TO SERVE HER MATE A SPECIAL MEAL.

SO?

OH?

WHEN - WHEN WE MAKE CAMP TONIGHT, I WILL PREPARE IT FOR YOU.

I DO NOT LIKE YOU VERY MUCH, BUT WE DID MATE.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

YES -- WE DID. THANK YOU.

WAS THE DINNER ALL RIGHT? WAS THE MEAT SATISFACTORY?

OF COURSE, DON'T HAVE TO ASK.

YES I DO. IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE CEREMONY.

OH, I DON'T KNOW WHY I TRY! I DON'T HAVE HALF OF THE THINGS I NEED FOR THE CEREMONY. BESIDES, IT'S LOST ON YOU!

LEAHTRAH? I DON'T KNOW ANY DELICATE WAY TO PUT THIS. WHEN WILL YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE...WITH CHILD?

MY PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY IMPREGNATE ON THEIR FIRST MATING BUT - IF SO - YOU ARE A GOOD GENETIC TYPE. STRONG, REASONABLY INTELLIGENT. A LITTLE TOO QUICK TO ANGER...

I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A VIRGIN.

I GUESS EVEN AN ENEMY IS GOOD ENOUGH TO *PRACTICE* WITH!

THORIN?

YOU ARE MY FIRST CHOSEN! I DID NOT HAVE TO BREED AT THIS TIME. I *CHOSE* TO BE WITH YOU!

YOU ARE AN ENEMY, BUT I WOULD NOT BE WITHOUT YOU. WHATEVER MAY COME IN THE FUTURE, I WANT TO SHARE AND REJOICE IN WHAT WE HAVE FOUND WITHIN EACH OTHER. DO YOU CHOOSE ME?

LEAHTRAH MIDDLESMITH, I CHOOSE YOU AS MY FIRST LOVE!

2 MONTHS LATER

LEAHTRAH. TIME TO WAKE UP.

OHHHH -- SORRY I FELL ASLEEP.

THORIN? DO YOU WANT SOME BREAD?

NOT JUST YET. I THINK I SAW THE SPIRES OF THE SANCTUARY AHEAD.

IT CAN'T BE!

HMM?

ALL OUR TRAVELING IS IN VAIN.

HERE. LET ME SEE.

FOCUS ON THE BASE OF THE BUILDING, AND KEEP YOUR HEAD LOW!

ALL RIGHT.

HOPLITE SOLDIERS!

YES, AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THOSE TENTS, THEY'RE HERE FOR A WHILE.

CAN'T YOU JUST GO THERE AND GET FOOD FROM THEM?

NO.

BY NOW, I'LL BE CLASSIFIED AS A DESERTER FOR NOT REPORTING BACK TO MY LINES AFTER THE SKIRMISH. THEY'D TAKE ME BACK FOR COURT MARTIAL...

...NOT TO MENTION WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY FOUND YOU.

THERE IS A VELITE TOWN ABOUT A MONTH'S WALK SOUTH, NAMED BENTHELEA. MY FAMILY LINE HAS MEMBERS THERE, AND WE WOULD BE WELCOME.

CAN YOU MAKE THE JOURNEY?

I COULD, BUT FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILD, WE'LL NEED MORE FOOD THAN WE'RE CARRYING NOW.

VERY WELL. I'LL SLIDE INTO CAMP AFTER MOONRISE AND SCAVENGE SUPPLIES.

THORIN?

BE CAREFUL.

FRESH MEAT... FRUIT... MILK, TOO... I SMELL IT ABOVE...

SNIFF SNIFF

WINE! SALT BEEF! BAKED GOODS! DID I SMELL THAT TINNED MILK?

I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW RAVENOUS I WAS UNTIL I SMELLED THIS MEAT. IT'S BEEN A MONTH AND A HALF ON BREAD! ONCE WE'RE OUT OF RANGE, I'LL COOK SOME FOR LEAHTRAH...

CLICK!

YOU'RE NOT WITH OUR UNIT! PUT UP YOUR HANDS OR BE SHOT!
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE...

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# KATMANDU

## MAGICIANS FABLE

STORY BY CATHY CARTER

ART BY MICHELE LIGHT

WELL, GENTLE FURRIES, TIME TO TURN IN YOUR COMPOSITIONS. LAY THEM FACE UP ON YOUR DESK AND I'LL PICK THEM UP.

HMM... MIGHT BE SOME COMPETENT MAGES AMONG YOU.

PSST, MAXIM. WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOUR COMPOSITION? I COULD SENSE AN AURA TO IT?

I PUT A VANISHING SPELL ON THE PAPER

THE WRITING WILL VANISH WHEN HE LAYS IT ON THE DESK.

THERE WAS A SULTAN WHO HAD SIX BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS. ONCE A YEAR HE THREW A PARTY FOR HIS DAUGHTERS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH SUITABLE YOUNG VELITES TO MARRY. THERE WERE TWO WAYS TO GAIN ENTRY TO THIS PARTY, ONE WAS BY DIRECT INVITATION OF THE SULTAN, AND THE OTHER WAS THROUGH THE USE OF MAGIC! IF YOU WERE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ENTER BY THIS METHOD YOU WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE PRINCESSES.

IN THE SAME LAND LIVED A VERY GOOD OLD MAGE. HE HAD LIVED A LONG HAPPY LIFE WITH HIS WIFE JUDITH....

UNTIL HER DEATH

HE SENSED HIS LIFE WAS DRAWING TO A CLOSE FOR HE STARTED SEEING JUDITH'S WRAITH FAINTLY HOVERING IN THE AIR WAITING....

SHE HAD WORN A MAGIC BRACELET AND WHEN HE HELD IT THE WRAITH BECAME MORE SOLID. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE IT WAS VERY DEAR TO HIM

NEAR THE HOME OF THE OLD MAGE LIVED A MERCHANT WHO DESPERATLY WANTED TO BE PRESENTED TO THE ROYAL DAUGHTERS. HE WAS A THOROUGHLY DISREPUTABLE VELITE. ANYTHING THAT WAS ILLEGAL, IMMORAL, AND EVEN FATTENING, DRAKO HAD A HAND IN. OFTEN HE TRIED TO BRIBE THE OLD MAGE TO GET HIM INTO THE PALACE BY MAGIC ON FESTIVAL NIGHT, BUT HAD ALWAYS BEEN REFUSED, AND THE OLD MAGE WAS TOO POWERFUL FOR DRAKO TO FORCE HIS WILL....

HMM

UNTIL HE HIT UPON AN INFALLIBLE SCHEME...

HEH

HE PAID A THIEF TO STEAL THE BRACELET

THEN WHAT HAPPENED MASTER?

YES, WHAT

LOOK, OLD NEIGHBOR! SEE WHAT I HAVE PURCHASED?

ON THE NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL DRAKO PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE HOME OF THE OLD MAGE

THE OLD MAGE INSTANTLY RECOGNIZED HIS DEAD WIFE'S BRACELET BUT AS AN HONORABLE VELITE, HE COULD NOT ACCUSE DRAKO OF THIEVERY AS HE SENSED IT WAS NOT HIS HAND THAT HAD STOLEN THE ORNAMENT.

YOU ONCE TOLD ME I WOULD NEVER HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PURCHASE YOUR SERVICES. WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW? THIS BRACELET IN PAYMENT FOR SENDING ME INTO THE PALACE?

AGREED

THE OLD MAGE KNEW HE MUST KEEP HIS BARGAIN BUT HE ALSO LOVED HIS SULTAN, SO HE KEPT HIS WORD....

THE OLD MAGE BOWED HIS HEAD. FEW THINGS HAD GIVEN HIM COMFORT IN HIS OLD AGE AS JUDITH'S BRACELET.

AND TRANSPORTED DRAKO INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE SULTAN AND HIS DAUGHTERS....

NUDE!

GUARDS

HA HA

UH OH!

HA HA HA

# DO PANIC

© Satoru Yamasaki

**Fantastic Panic. Direct from Japan's Comic Market. By Ganbear.**

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE ANTARCTIC PRESS

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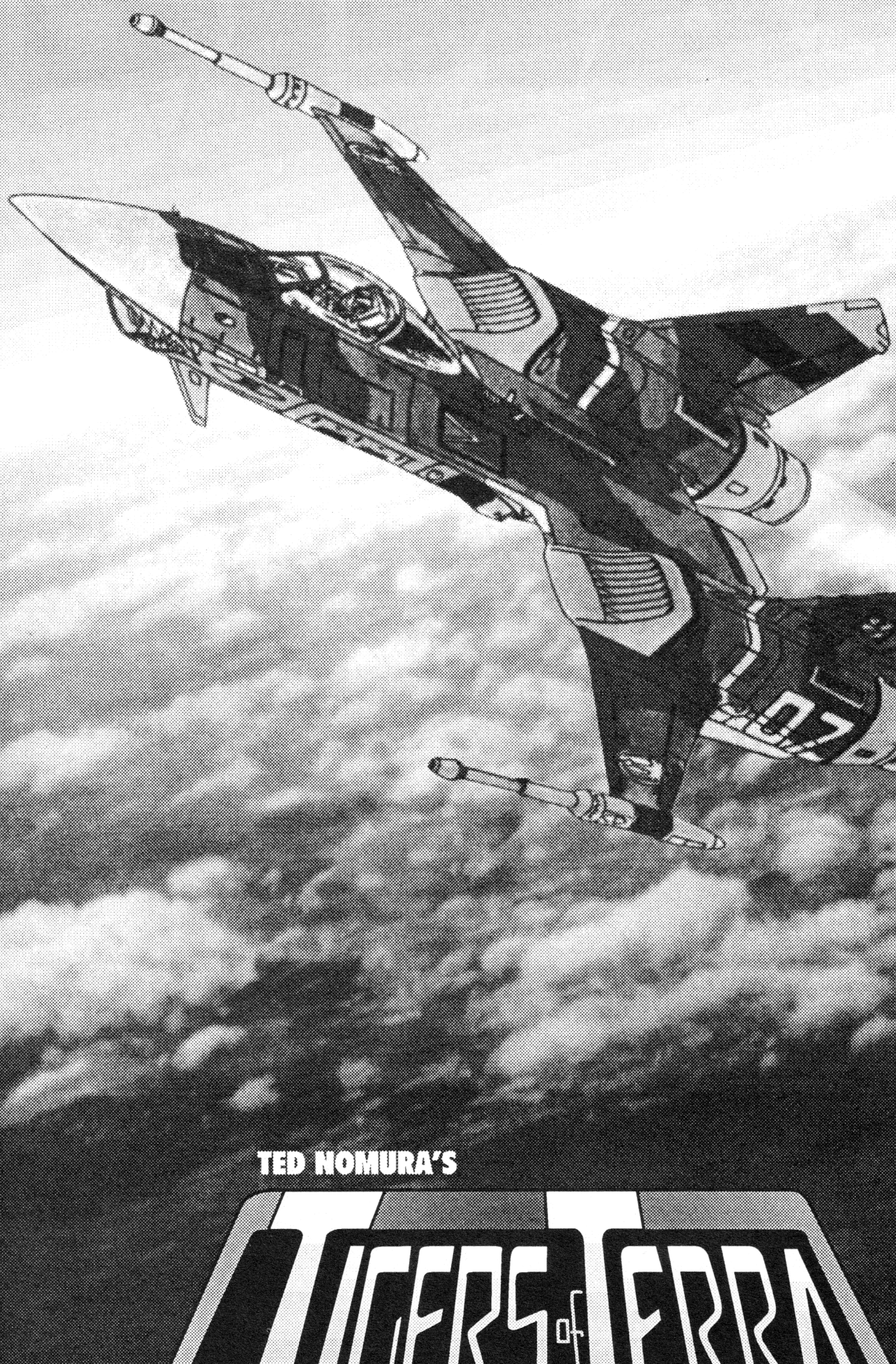

TED NOMURA'S

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